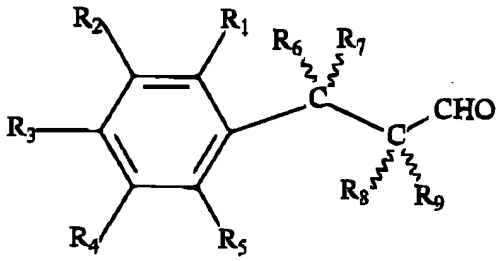
reacting under reductive alkylation conditions an aldehyde having the formula (2):

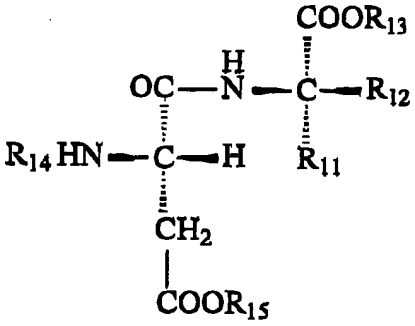
T. 0320



(2)

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8 and R_9 have the same meanings as R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8 and R_9, respectively in the above formula (1), with an aspartame compound having the formula (3):

T. 0330



(3)

wherein R_{11}, R_{12} and R_{13} in formula (3) have the same meanings as R_{11}, R_{12} and R_{13} in formula (1), R_{14} is a hydrogen atom or a substituent which can be converted into a hydrogen atom and R_{15} is a hydrogen atom, benzyl group or a substituent which may be used to protect a carboxyl group.

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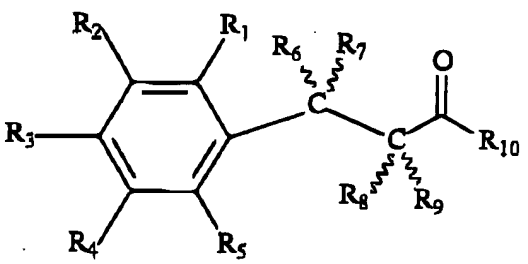
34. (Amended) A method of producing the compound as defined in claim 1, comprising:

reacting under reductive alkylation conditions an aldehyde having the formula (5):

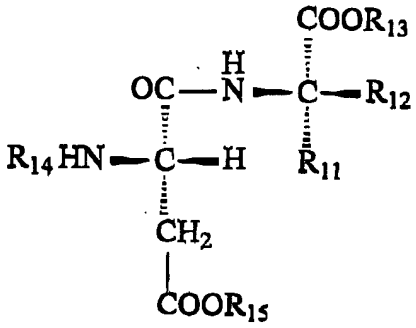
T. 0340



(5)

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8, R_9 and R_{10} have the same meanings as R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8, R_9 and R_{10}, respectively in formula (1);

with an aspartame compound having the formula (3):



(3)

wherein R_{11}, R_{12} and R_{13} in formula (3) have the same meanings as R_{11}, R_{12} and R_{13} in formula (1), R_{14} is a hydrogen atom or a substituent which can be converted into a hydrogen atom and R_{15} is a hydrogen atom, benzyl group or a substituent which may be used to protect a carboxyl group.

Please add the following new claim:

35. (New) The composition according to Claim 29, wherein said carrier or bulking agent is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of polydextrose, starch, maltodextrines, cellulose, methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose and other cellulose compounds, sodium alginate, pectins, gums, lactose, maltose, glucose, sucrose, leucine, glycerole, mannitol, sorbitol, xylitol, and erythritol.